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No. 59

House of Representatives

The House met at 6 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Generous and munificent God, You have graced each one of us according to the measure You have judged worthy of our abilities. In this we each rejoice, and together we celebrate the multitude of gifts and opportunities You lay before this House.

Hear our gratitude this evening that in this time and place, You have brought this body together, each individual representative of, not just their constituencies, but of a wide array of opinions, talents, concerns, and convictions. Especially on this day we give You thanks for our newest Members and share in the enthusiasm and support that surrounds them.

Bless then each of us and each Member of this legislative body, that we would never lose sight of the fact that all that we have, and all that we are, are all from Your hand. May our stewardship of these gifts, these diverse perspectives, this weight of responsibilities, serve to glorify You in these days.

In Your matchless name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Maria Matthews, Esquire, Director of Elections, with the Florida Department of State indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on April 1, 2025, the Honorable Jimmy Patronis was elected Representative to Congress for the First Congressional District of Florida.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Tallahassee, FL, April 2, 2025.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that the election night results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, for Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District of Florida show that Jimmy Patronis received 97,335 or 56.91% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these election night results that Jimmy Patronis was elected as Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District of Florida.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no recount or contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by Escambia, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Respectfully,

MARIA MATTHEWS, ESQ.,
Director, Division of Elections.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Maria Matthews, Esquire, Director of Elections, with the Florida Department of State indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on April 1, 2025, the Honorable Randy Fine was elected Representative to Congress for the Sixth Congressional District of Florida.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Tallahassee, FL, April 2, 2025.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that the election night results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, for Representative in Congress from the Sixth Congressional District of Florida show that Randy Fine received 110,764 or 56.66% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these election night results that Randy Fine was elected as Representative in Congress from the Sixth Congressional District of Florida.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no recount or contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by Flagler, Putnam, and parts of Lake, Marion, St. Johns, and Volusia counties involved, an official Certificate of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Respectfully,

MARIA MATTHEWS, ESQ.,
Director, Division of Elections.

**SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE
JIMMY PATRONIS, OF FLORIDA,
AND THE HONORABLE RANDY
FINE, OF FLORIDA, AS MEMBERS
OF THE HOUSE**

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Florida, the Honorable Randy Fine, and the gentleman from Florida, the Honorable Jimmy Patronis, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Their certificates of election have not arrived, but there is no contest, and no question has been raised with regard to their elections.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representatives-elect Fine and Patronis and the members of the Florida delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representatives-elect will please raise their right hand.

Mr. PATRONIS and Mr. FINE appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now Members of the 119th Congress.

**RESTORING TRUST IN OUR
NATION'S GOVERNMENT**

(Mr. PATRONIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here representing the men and women of Florida's First Congressional District.

As a lifelong native of the Florida panhandle, I am ready to get to work to support President Trump's agenda to make America first, to protect our southern border, to make groceries affordable, to strengthen our military, and to provide much-needed support to our veterans.

Without my family, I wouldn't be here today, so I give a special thank you to my beautiful wife, Katie; my boys, Johnny and Theo; and all of the great friends and supporters who made the trip to our Nation's Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, with a Republican majority here in Congress and President Trump in the White House, we have got an opportunity of a lifetime to fix this country so that our children grow up in

a nation that is safe and full of opportunities. So I am ready to get our fiscal House in order.

As the former chief financial officer for the State of Florida, I oversaw the State's budget for nearly a decade. I know what it takes to make sure we have a growing economy with a stabilized budget.

I have always believed that people of America spend their money better than Washington, D.C. does. In fact, it is just a fact that we cannot achieve greatness when we are saddling our children with unbearable amounts of debt. The President's efforts to root out fraud, waste, and abuse is critical to restoring trust in our Nation's government.

For far too long, Americans have sent their hard-earned tax dollars to Washington without really feeling like they were getting anything from it. Frankly, Washington has been indifferent to the needs of families throughout the country, and we have got an opportunity to fix a lifetime of issues for the better.

As I have said, I am a workhorse; not a show horse. I am ready to get to work with my colleagues and this country together to get this country out of the ditch and return it to greatness.

May God bless America.

**TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE
AMERICA GREAT AGAIN**

(Mr. FINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago, a 16-year-old boy walked through those doors, and he marveled in this room at this temple of democracy as he watched people who gave of their lives, who gave up time with their families, and who gave up their careers in order to serve their country.

When I spent 1 year working here as a House page, I learned from so many people—five of whom, by the way, are still serving today—what it meant to serve America and what it meant to put the needs of the country before yourself.

I want to recognize my family because when I did this opportunity, being a good Jewish boy, my family would not send me alone. My mother, my father, and my sister moved to Washington. My mom, who I will talk about in a little bit, used to sit where my wife, Wendy, and my father are. My sons are over there. I want to recognize all of them and thank them so much for being here. My mom used to sit up there, and she used to watch me every day. She used to tell me every day: RANDY, God has a plan.

Now, I believe that when Donald Trump's life was saved in Butler, Pennsylvania, it was so that he could save the world. It is an honor of a lifetime that God's plan for me is to come and help all of you implement that plan.

However, today is also a sad day for me because the person I most wished to

be here to watch this can't be here. I will tell you a story about my mom. She was my biggest champion. She was the one who taught me how to fight. If you don't know me, and if you haven't followed me, "fighter" will be the word that you will know soon enough.

One day when I was 16 years old, my mother came with me, and we went to the stationery store which is still in the same place that it is today. We went into that store, and my mom saw something that she thought that I should buy. She said: RANDY you never know when you might actually need this.

Now, I bought that thing that day. I thought it was kind of crazy, and it has been sitting in my closet for 35 years. It is in that bag over there. It is a metal seal that says: "Member of Congress."

When I leave here and I go back to my office, it will be the first thing that I hang. That is because God has a plan for us all. He has a plan for all of you. He has a plan for me. He has a plan for every member of my family, and He has a plan for every person who is watching here today.

I believe that His plan in the days ahead is that we do everything in our power to deliver on the promise that the voters asked us to do in November, and that is to Make America Great Again.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlemen from Florida, the whole number of the House is 433.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 13 of rule I, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 11 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or